

weather. For example, 300 years ago, before Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean in search of India, Polynesians boarded double-hulled canoes and sailed north seeking a place called Havaiki. These ancient voyagers found Havaiki and settled there and slowly built their society and government. A kingdom emerged and a monarchy grew to gain the respect of nations around the world. The kingdom of Hawaii entered into treaties with the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and the United States. That kingdom was overthrown with the assistance of the U.S. military forces. But the Congress of the United States, realizing that the takeover was not done in a democratic fashion, recently issued an official apology to the people of Hawaii. It takes a great country like America to admit its wrongs.

Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific between the U.S. mainland and the nations of Asia has made it a major center of military defense for the United States. Pearl Harbor serves as a critical naval outpost, allowing our fleet to connect to the United States, Asia, and other Pacific nations. So critical is Pearl Harbor's location to our national defense that it was targeted by our enemies at the beginning of World War II. The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, brought the United States into World War II and revealed the loyalty the people of Hawaii had for the United States and the sacrifices they were willing to make for their country. Thousands upon thousands of young men from Hawaii volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. Senator DAN AKAKA and I were two of the volunteers.

Nearly 8 billion visitors from around the world each year are drawn to Hawaii's breathtaking beaches, scenic sites, and unique culture. Hawaii is home to one-fourth of the endangered species in the United States. We have eight national parks, including the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which is the home to Kilauea, the most active volcano on Earth. Hawaii has truly added to the diversity and richness of the United States—culturally, racially, ecologically, and geographically.

Today, the Congress of the United States celebrates Hawaii as the 50th State to enter the Union.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the resolution offered by my colleague and dear friend, Senator INOUE, and passed by this body. It is a resolution honoring the historic milestone of Hawaii's 50th anniversary of statehood.

In the center of the Pacific on islands rising from the bottom of the ocean, Hawaii joined our great and diverse Nation as its 50th State 50 years ago. Similar to the 49 States that came before it, Hawaii has something unique to share with the world.

Everyone who is born in Hawaii or comes to Hawaii embraces the aloha spirit as a value and way of life. The

aloha spirit is good for the United States and it is good for the world.

I was a teacher at Kamehameha Schools when Congress voted to make Hawaii the 50th State in March of 1959. Fire crackers and sirens went off across the island of Oahu in celebration. The bells at historic Kawaihau Church started to ring and hundreds of people gathered there.

The next day, the newspaper headlines hailed the good news. My brother, Rev. Dr. Abraham Akaka, who was minister at Kawaihau Church, delivered the sermon. Brother Abe named Hawaii "The Aloha State," and 50 years later we still call it that.

I would like to quote a few words my brother said on that historic day in March of 1959:

Aloha consists of this new attitude of heart, above negativism, above legalism. It is the unconditional desire to promote the true good of other people in a friendly spirit, out of a sense of kinship. Aloha seeks to do good, with no conditions attached. We do not do good only to those who do good to us. One of the sweetest things about the love of God, about Aloha, is that it welcomes the stranger and seeks his good. A person who has the spirit of Aloha loves even when the love is not returned. And such is the love of God.

This is the meaning of aloha, Hawaii's gift to the cultural fabric of the United States and the world.

While we celebrate this landmark anniversary next month, we must remember that the privileges of statehood came with obligations. Hawaii and the United States have a sacred trust relationship with the indigenous people of Hawaii that still remains to be fulfilled.

In admitting Hawaii as the 50th State, Congress and the people of Hawaii have recognized the importance of addressing the needs of Native Hawaiians and preservation of their culture and traditions. I am proud to continue this legacy as we move forward with that promise.

I congratulate Hawaii and its people on 50 years of statehood. I am proud to represent this great State in the Senate.

#### MIAMI DADE COLLEGE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 838 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 838) to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of land held by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice in Miami Dade County, Florida, to facilitate the construction of a new educational facility that includes a secure parking area for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 838) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT REGULATION COMPACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 19, introduced earlier today.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 19) granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will adopt the final measure required to authorize \$3 billion in dedicated Federal and local funding for the Washington, DC, regional Metrorail system. Today, the Senate will give its consent and approval to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

This compact amendment, jointly agreed to by Maryland, Virginia and DC, makes the changes required by Federal legislation enacted last year which authorizes capital and preventive maintenance projects for the Washington Metro system.

A joint resolution of Congress is needed to authorize any changes in interstate compacts. This resolution which I introduced today with my colleagues, Senators MIKULSKI, WEBB and WARNER, simply provides that necessary congressional consent.

The National Capital Transportation Amendments Act, often referred to as the Metro funding bill, was included as title VI of Division B of PL 110-432, legislation requiring significant improvement to rail safety nationally. The Metro funding bill authorizes \$1.5 billion over 10 years for capital and preventive maintenance of the Metro system. It prohibits these funds from being used for system expansion, which requires separate authorization.

The Metro funding bill includes three provisions requiring changes to the regional compact that governs the system. First, it requires an expansion of the governing board to include two Federal members with voting rights. Second, it requires that the non-Federal jurisdictions provide dedicated